

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2164

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINR, OAU, ET, SU, SG

SUBJECT: SENEGAL URGES CONFEDERATION AS SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS IN
AFRICAN HORN

1. SUMMARY: IN RECEIVING NEW ETHIOPIAN ENVOY, PRESIDENT
SENGHOR RECALLED HIS OWN ROLE IN RESISTING AFRICAN BALKANIZATION
AND URGED THAT PROBLEMS IN HORN BE RESOLVED BY REFERENCE
TO PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION "BEFORE INDEPENDENCE,"
INVOLABILITY OF COLONIAL FRONTIERS AND UN RESOLUTIONS.
HE FELT FINAL SOLUTION LAY IN HORN CONFEDERATION OF ENTIRE
"ETHIOPIAN" ETHNIC GROUP. SENEGALESE ARE TAKING POSITIVE
VIEW OF FREETOWN SUDAN-ETHIOPIA MEDIATION COMMITTEE
MEETING, SEEING IT AS EVIDENCE OF AFRICANS' RESOLVE TO
SETTLE CONTINENTAL PROBLEMS THEMSELVES. EMBASSY WOULD
APPRECIATE BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND ON ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRESENTING HIS LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO SENEGALESE

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PRESIDENT SENGHOR ON DEC. 22, NEW ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR
AYALEW KANNO EMPHASIZED HIS COUNTRY'S INTENTION TO
EXERCISE ITS RIGHTS TO SELF-DEFENSE. FACING UNPROVOKED
AGGRESSION, HE SAID, ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE
BUT TO RISE UP EN MASSE TO FIGHT THE AGGRESSOR. IN
REMARKS NOTABLY DEVOID OF MARXIST RHETORIC, KANNO PAID
TRIBUTE TO SENGHOR'S ABSOLUTE REJECTION OF ANY IDEA OF

BALKANIZATION OF AFRICA."

3. SENGHOR POINTED OUT THAT SENEGAL WAS EXERCISING "FULL RESPONSIBILITY" TOWARD HORN PROBLEMS THROUGH MEMBERSHIP ON BOTH ETHIOPIA-SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEES. HE STRESSED SENEGAL'S ADHERENCE TO "COMPLEMENTARY" PRINCIPLES OF "SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND THE INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS INHERITED FROM COLONIZATION." FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, "WE FOUGHT FOR YEARS IN THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT AGAINST AFRICAN BALKANIZATION." SENGHOR SUGGESTED THAT ALL PROBLEMS OF HORN INCLUDING ERITREA COULD BE SOLVED ON BASIS OF THESE PRINCIPLES AND EXISTING UN RESOLUTIONS. HOWEVER, HE ARGUED THAT FINAL SOLUTION IN HORN LAY IN "CONFEDERATION OF ALL STATES OF THE SUB-REGION," PARTICULARLY SINCE, HE SAID, EVERYONE IN THE AREA BELONGS TO SAME ETHIOPIAN ETHNIC GROUP.

4. EARLIER THIS WEEK, PROCURER GENERAL OUSMANE GOUNDIAM, WHO CHAIRED SENEGAL'S DELEGATION TO FREETOWN MEETING OF OAU SUDAN-ETHIOPIA MEDIATION COMMITTEE, WAS INTERVIEWED AT LENGTH ON LOCAL RADIO. GOUNDIAM READ COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION, OPERATIVE PARTS OF WHICH WERE REPEATED VERBATIM IN MINISTERS' COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED REFTEL. GOUNDIAM PRAISED SIERRA LEONE PRESIDENT STEVENS' "MOVING APPEAL FOR THE SOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS BY OURSELVES," AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CITED "GOOD DISPOSITION" OF TWO PARTIES TO CONFLICT IN COMING TO FREETOWN, DESPITE EARLIER RIGIDITY. NOTING THAT THIOPIAN AND SUDANESE MINISTERS HAD ACCEPTED COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT "AFRICANS ARE CONSCIOUS THAT THEY MUST FIND AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS" OR WATCH "PROGRESSIVE DISINTEGRATION OF OUR CONTINENTAL ORGANIZATION." IT IS A QUESTION, HE SAID, "OF THINKING BY OURSELVES AND FOR OURSELVES."

5. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, ANOTHER MEMBER OF SENEGALESE DELEGATION REITERATED SAME UPBEAT VIEW OF FREETOWN MEETING. HE FELT THAT WAY TOWARD RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE WAS NOW CLEAR. HE NOTED THAT SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD POSTPONED HIS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FROM FREETOWN FOR ONE DAY, TO ENABLE HIM TO ACCOMPANY ETHIOPIAN MINISTER ON RETURN FLIGHT TO EAST AFRICA.

6. COMMENT: SENGHOR IS UNDOUBTEDLY PLEASED BY ASSIGNMENT OF KANNO, WHOM HE SALUTED AS "MAN OF CULTURE," THE SENEGALESE PRESIDENT'S ULTIMATE ACCOLADE. SENGHOR HOPED FOR INCREASED BILATERAL CULTURAL COOPERATION, RECALLING THAT

IT HAD GOTTEN OFF TO A GOOD START JUST AFTER INDEPENDENCE.
WE UNDERSTAND KANNO WAS FORMERLY DEAN OF FACULTY OF
EDUCATION AT ETHIOPIAN UNIVERSITY, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE
ANY FURTHER AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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